

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## India

**Post:** New Delhi

### 2011 Monsoon Report 5

**Report Categories:**

Agricultural Situation

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**Report Highlights:**

Monsoon rains have been progressing normally, as over the last two weeks, the cumulative rain deficit continues to remain at 1 percent. Favorable weather conditions accelerated kharif planting to 99.2 million hectares, which is 3 percent above last year's level. With the exception of coarse cereals, pulses, peanuts and sunflower crop, farmers have planted large areas under rice, soybean, cotton, sugarcane, castor and sesamum. Recent rains have replenished water levels in major irrigation dams and have recharged ground water levels, which should have a positive impact on winter season crop planting such as wheat, winter rice, rapeseed-mustard and pulses.

## **General Information:**

### **Monsoon Progress:**

During the week ending August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 22 out of 36 weather subdivisions indicated receiving normal or above average rains (Figure 1). The total weighted all India rainfall average was 8 percent below the long period average (LPA). After a wet spell during the previous week, regions such as Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Eastern Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal, Jharkhand, and North Eastern states failed to receive adequate rainfall. At the same time, Marathwada, Central Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, received heavy rains following the dry spell of the previous week. The states of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Bihar continue to receive normal rains.

Monsoon rains are progressing normally, as over the last two weeks, the cumulative rain deficit continues to remain at 1 percent. Data from the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) indicate that the cumulative weighted all India rainfall was 1 percent below the LPA at 600.1 mm for the period June 1 to August 17, 2011 (Figure 2). Cumulative rainfall has been normal or above average in 32 out of 36 meteorological subdivisions, compared to 29 subdivisions a week ago. Regions such as Orissa, Assam, Meghalaya and Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur and Tripura (NMMT), still lack sufficient rain coverage. The major crops grown in these regions are rice paddy, cotton, peanuts, maize, green gram, black gram, pearl millet, and sorghum.

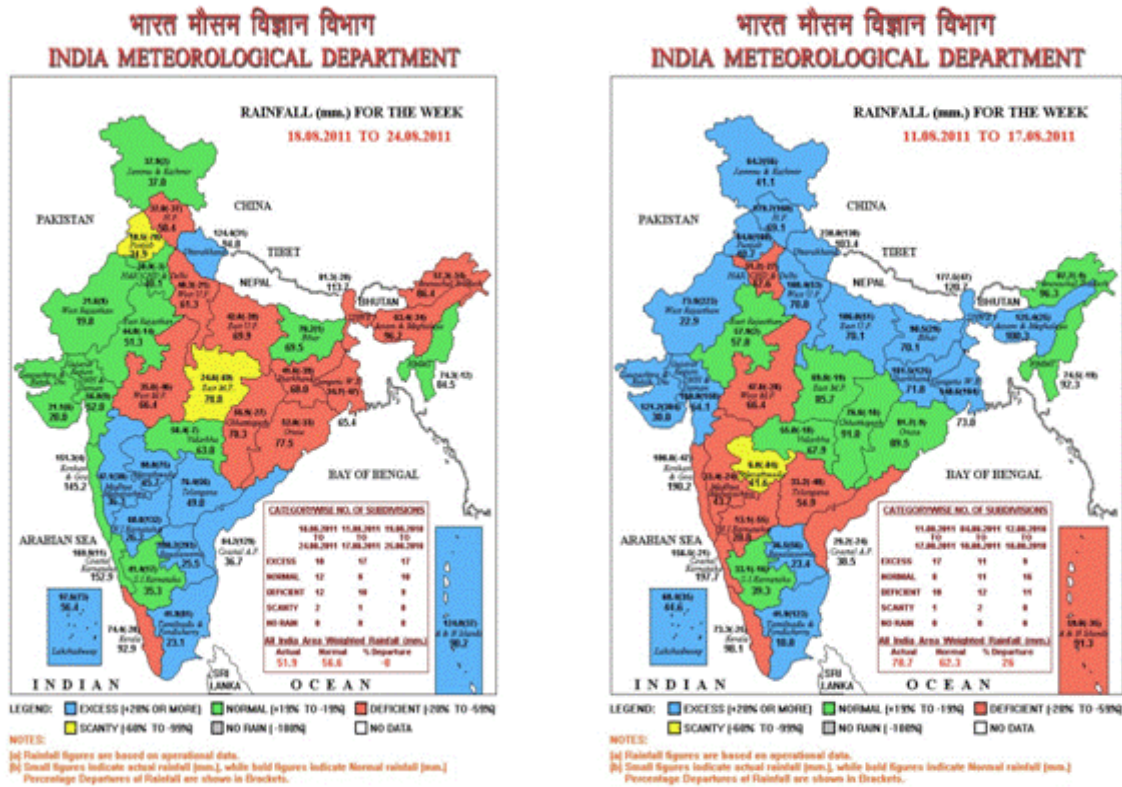
### **Crop Condition:**

During the month of August, India as a whole received sufficient rains (Figure 3). According to recent agro-meteorological advisory bulletin from Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), standing crops of soybean, cotton and minor oilseeds in Maharashtra (except Vidarbha), peanut, red gram and other pulse crops in Andhra Pradesh, paddy crop in Bihar and Jharkhand have been recovering from moisture stress. The forecast of good rainfall in central, eastern and western regions should help normal growth of the standing crops. However, excess rain over Central and North India could impact growth of cotton and soybean.

### **Progress of planting:**

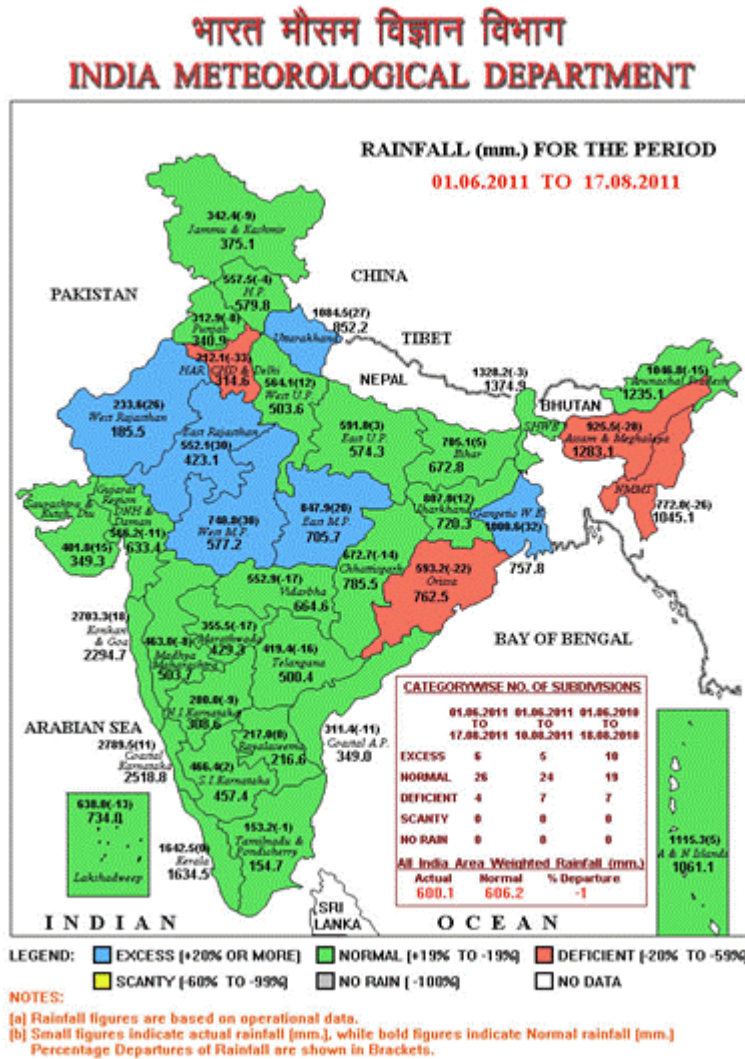
According to the latest planting progress report, kharif crops have been planted on 99.2 million hectares (equal to 95 percent of normal area under kharif crops), compared to the 96.3 million hectares during the same period last year. Farmers are increasing planted area for rice, soybean, cotton, sugarcane, castor and sesamum, as these crops are currently relatively more remunerative than other kharif crops. With the kharif planting season almost over, no additional planting is expected for coarse cereals, cotton and most oilseeds. Recent rains have replenished water levels in major irrigation dams and have recharged ground water levels, which should positively impact planting of winter crops like wheat, winter rice, rapeseed-mustard and pulses. However, the harvest will largely depend on sufficient and well-distributed rains during second half of monsoon season.

Figure 1: Rainfall during the period starting August 11 to August 24, 2011



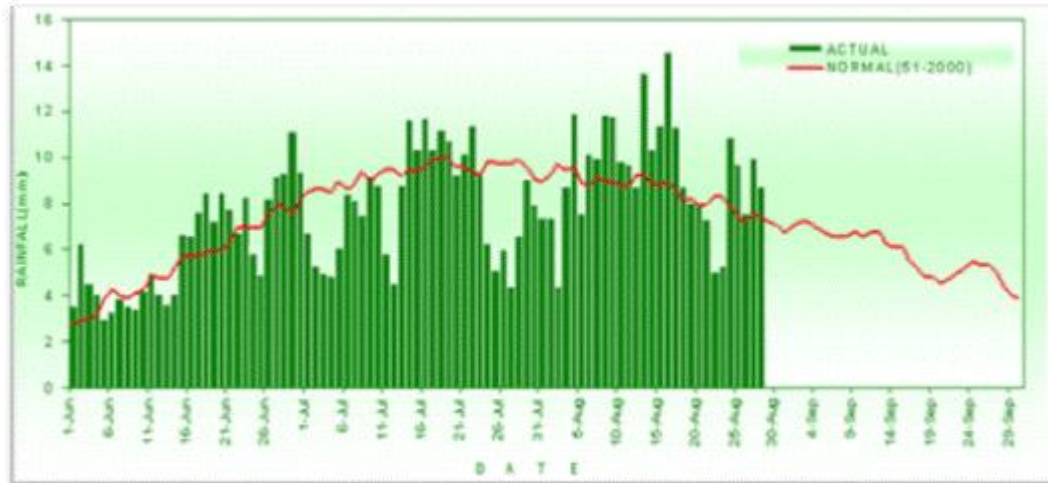
Source: Indian Meteorological Department, GOI

Figure 2: Rainfall during the period starting June 1 to August 17, 2011



Source: Indian Meteorological Department, GOI

**Figure 3: Daily Mean Rainfall (mm) over the country as whole (2011)**



Source: IMD, GOI